MEMBER : I am sure you have not gone along the Vadai canal road.

DEWAN : As for the early completion of the cement works in the Commercial canal, the matter is receiving attention and an estimate for the end portion comes to Rs. 65,000 to Rs. 70,000. I shall see whether we can do the work gradually year by year and if the Port Officer agrees with the Chief Engineer's proposals, I hope to give you your first instalment next year. The Chief Engineer will note that fact.

Other matters you have taken up here are mostly for the Municipality except the Cochin-Alleppey road and if you had read my address you would have known something about that.

The hospital for women and children is an expensive proposal. But there is no harm in having the matter examined. The Leper Asylum is another matter. I think when we have a large Leper Asylum started near Cochira some of those unfortunate persons from Alleppey can be accommodated there.

148. Needs of the Vaikam Municipality.

MR. K. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Vaikam*) stated that many portions of the Vaikam town especially those surrounding the thickly populated places, were on a low level and consequently water-logged. There were no proper drainage channels. The roads and bye-lanes in the town were also similarly situated. Further, the soil, being sandy, was easily washed away by the rains. In the interests of the sanitation of the town and the health of the inhabitants it was necessary to construct drains on the sides of public roads and side-drains on the sides of village roads and lanes and to open channels for draining away the water collected in water-logged areas.

The Municipal Council was entrusted with the duty of improving the town but the financial resources of the Council were not sufficient for the purpose. Only about a fourth of the Municipal area was being lighted and swept. The roads and lanes, except the Main Central road, were neglected for want of funds. Other Municipal Councils, much richer than the Vaikam Council, were given the privilege of levying and collecting tolls on motor vehicles, bullock-carts, etc. The member pleaded that the Vaikam Council should also be allowed to levy tolls on motor vehicles.

The total length of the chief roads of the town was only five miles. Although the roads were gravelled, their condition was not very satisfactory. The minor roads were sandy during summer and marshy during winter. The level of most roads should be raised and they should be gravelled. Want of proper cart-roads was an obstacle in the improvement of the town. The waterways also were not properly maintained and had become unfit for use. They should be widened, deepened and improved.

The streets and other *porambokes* within the town were under the control of the Municipal Council, which was allowed to collect the dues thereon for temporary occupation. But the trees standing thereon were not handed over to the Council and were being leased on *kutpakapaattam* by the Public Works Department. The Municipal Council should be empowered to lease the usufruct of the trees standing on the *porambokes* mentioned above, in view to increase its financial position.

The Municipal Council had no information about the transfers effected of properties situated within the Municipality. The Council was consequently handicapped in the speedy collection of taxes and other dues in respect of the houses, so transferred. The Sub-Registrars should therefore be instructed to supply a copy each of the *pokkuvaravu* forms in respect of houses or house-sites within the Municipal area in respect of which transfers were effected.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Velayudhan Pillai, in the matter of drainage, you ask the Public Works Department to undertake the construction of masonry drains. I do not know whether you mean that the agency for doing the work of the Municipality is to be the Public Works Department or whether you want the Public Works Department to bear the cost of it also. If the latter, I regret it cannot be done.

Then you refer to tolls. When you asked that your Municipality be permitted to levy tolls on motor vehicles, I naturally jumped to the conclusion that

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the Municipality maintained the roads. But you assured me that that is not so. As a rule—it is a very good rule too—tolls should be levied only in return for services rendered. I am not aware what service the Municipality renders to motor traffic. Motor vehicles are not milch cows.

In regard to canals and roads, I shall ask the Chief Engineer to pay attention to those which are maintained by the Government. As for side canals that intersect your town, if they are maintained by the Public Works Department, I shall ask the Public Works Department to go into the matter.

Pokkuvaravu forms are issued from Sub-Registrar's offices and Taluk Cutcherries because there is a change of registry of lands. The change has to be noted in the Taluk Cutcherry registers. That is not the case with the Municipal Office.

MEMBER: The purpose served by both is the same.

DEWAN: May be. I do not see why the general revenues of the State should be made to meet the cost of the supply of such forms to the Municipality. But I have a suggestion to put to you. That is, when an applicant from within the area of a Municipal Council comes to effect the transfer of land, he may be asked to bring two *Pokkuvaravu* forms so that you can utilise one.

MEMBER: It is only the Sub-Registrar who can enforce it.

DEWAN: Yes. He can enforce it at your request.

MEMBER: We have no power to ask him to enforce it.

DEWAN: But the Government can place your suggestion before the Sub-Registrar. You can apply to Government for sanction to the proposal.

In regard to revenue from *poramboke* lands, the fact that you have put up sheds and collected fees from pilgrims does not establish your right to the revenue. I think there is a provision in the Municipal Regulation which enables the Municipality to levy license fees for temporary occupation. It is a matter of doubt whether there can be such taxation at all. If you like, I will have that point examined to see whether municipalities are entitled to collect fees.

149. Needs of the Alwaye town.

MR. M. K. GOVINDAN (*Member, Municipal Council, Alwaye*) first spoke about the need for the construction of a bridge across the Alwaye river. In reply to the representation made by Mr. Khadir Makkar on the same subject, it was stated that, as the estimate for the bridge amounted to over three lakhs, the work could not be started for some time to come. The bridge was absolutely necessary, and, in its absence, the people were put to much hardship and inconvenience. It was very dangerous to cross the river in ferry boats during the rainy season. The question of constructing the bridge should be reconsidered and provision made for the same in the next year's budget.

The portion of the Alwaye river between the Railway bridge and Tottakattukara Church landing was being gradually silted up ever since the floods of 1099. Consequently, that portion had become quite unfit for navigation, in spite of the annual dredging operations carried out by the Government. That work was of no lasting benefit but was a source of temporary inconvenience to boat traffic. Some suitable measures, such as obstructing the sand by a screen in the upper reaches of the river, should therefore be adopted to prevent the silting up of the river.

The seven liquor shops within the Alwaye Municipal limits should be removed outside the town. Although a resolution to that effect had been passed by the Municipal Council and the same was submitted to the Government, no satisfactory reply had been given. The Government should carefully consider the matter and order the early removal of the shops to outside the Municipal area.

Special licenses were being issued for the sale of liquor on the Alwaye river-sands during the summer months and in connection with the *Sivaratri* festivals. No substantial gain was derived by such system, but on the other hand it had a demoralising effect on the people crowding there on those occasions. The system had been stopped for the current year. But that was not sufficient. A definite ruling permanently abolishing the practice should be passed.

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